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Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets



11 Publication number: **0 433 073 A2**

12

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

21 Application number: 90313612.5

51 Int. Cl.⁵: **G06F 15/20**

22 Date of filing: 13.12.90

30 Priority: 14.12.89 JP 322642/89

43 Date of publication of application:
19.06.91 Bulletin 91/25

64 Designated Contracting States:
DE FR GB NL

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54 Document formatting apparatus.

57 A document formatting apparatus automatically arrange input document data so as to match a pre-formatted document. Firstly, layout structure including character properties and logical properties of each text data item are extracted from a pre-formatted document. Secondly, logical properties of each text data item are extracted from an input document. Thirdly each of the logical properties of the input document is compared with corresponding logical properties of the pre-formatted document. When the logical properties of input text data are matched with logical properties of the pre-formatted document, corresponding character properties of the pre-formatted document are applied to the input text data. Therefore, each text data item of the input document is automatically arranged in accordance with the preset layout structure and corresponding character properties.

EP 0 433 073 A2

"DOCUMENT FORMATTING APPARATUS"

The present invention relates to a document formatting apparatus for arranging a document according to a user's desired format.

Recently, Desk Top Publishing Systems (DTP) has been used in offices. The DTP allows many different page sizes, text frame sizes, character properties as layout functions and prints high quality documents.

When using the DTP, at the beginning of creating document, the user must designate many kinds of layout function. For example, as shown in Figure 1, menu items are displayed in order and the user selects desired items one by one. In the left side of Figure 1, document type items are displayed first. When the user selects a thesis as his desired document type, text data items of a thesis are displayed as shown in the center of Figure 1. The text data of a thesis are the title, author, place, chapter title, chapter paragraph, section title, section paragraph and so on. When the user selects the title, character property items for the title are displayed as shown in right upper side of Figure 1. These are character style, character font and character position, which are necessary for title to be created. The user then might select GOTHIC style as character style, 18 points as character font and centering as character position. Next, the text data items are displayed again as shown in center of Figure 1. When the user selects author, character property items for author are displayed as shown in right lower side of Figure 1. Then user selects each desired item in the same manner. In this way, the user designates all character properties of all text data for a thesis. However, because the user designates desired format by means of menu items only, he cannot view the formatted document image. Moreover if he is later displeased with the displayed formatted document, he must edit it. At this time, a small editor window is displayed by the side of the formatted document on display, and the user amends the formatted document by using the window. However this amended format is not saved for use in the next document creation. In short, the amendment made by using the editor window is not memorized. Therefore the user's desired final format is not applied to the next input document. In order to memorise this final format after amendment, menu items are displayed again and the user must designate items like he did in making the amendment. This second designation of menu items is troublesome for the user.

Accordingly, it is one object of the present invention to provide a document formatting apparatus which allows the user to easily understand the format which will be presented.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a document formatting apparatus which does not require the user to designate layout function by menu items.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a document formatting apparatus which memorises an amended format and uses it for the next input document.

Accordingly, the present invention provides a document formatting apparatus, comprising:

- memory means for storing a formatted document;
- extracting means for extracting layout structure information and logical property information for the text data in a stored pre-formatted document by use of predetermined extraction rules;
- analysing means for extracting logical property information for the text data in an input document; and
- formatting means for determining whether the extracted logical property information from the stored formatted document coincides with the logical property information of the input document and for editing the text data of the input document in accordance with corresponding layout structure information of the stored formatted document, when the logical property information coincides.

The invention also extends to a method of formatting a document comprising the steps of:

- memorising an already formatted document;
- extracting layout structure information and logical property information for the text data in the stored formatted document by use of predetermined extraction rules;
- analysing logical property information for the text data in an input document;
- determining if the extracted logical property information from the stored formatted document matches the logical property information of the input document; and
- editing the text data of the input document, in accordance with corresponding layout structure information of the stored formatted document when the logical property information matches.

One embodiment of the present invention will now be described by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

Figure 1 shows an example of display transition by menu selection according to the prior art.

Figure 2 shows a schematic of a document formatting apparatus of the present invention.

Figure 3 shows a situation of format application according to the present invention.

Figure 4A and 4B show memorised data of formatted document and extended formatted data.

Figure 5 shows a flow chart of the process for extracting format from pre-formatted document according to the present invention.

Figure 6A, 6B and 6C show data structure of layout structure information and logical property information according to the present invention.

Figure 7A and 7B show input document and its logical property information.

Figure 8 shows formatted input document according to the present invention.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Figure 2 shows a schematic of a document formatting apparatus according to the present invention. This apparatus comprises on input section 1, text data analysis section 2, formatted document memory section 3, format information extract section 4, format information memory section 5, format information application section 6, output data generation section 7 and output section 8.

The input section 1 is means for entering document data consisting of character code and various operation command. For example, the input section 1 is keyboard or tablet.

The text data analysis section 2 is means for extracting a logical property of each text data input through the input section 1, and sends each text data and corresponding logical property information as output. (Text data is title, author name, place, chapter name, chapter paragraph, section name, section paragraph and so on. They compose the document.) in short, the text data analysis section 2 analysis each text data by using document structure analysis rules. This analysis technique is disclosed in USP 4813010.

The formatted document memory section 3 stores a pre-formatted document, which was generated by this apparatus and edited by the last user. In other words, the stored document has format which was selected by the user the last time. This section 3 is, for example, a magnetic disk apparatus or an optical disk apparatus.

The format information extract section 4 extracts format information, which are layout structure and corresponding logical property, from the pre-formatted document stored in the document memory section 3. In short, various layout structure (page size, text frame size, character property) and logical property of each text data are extracted from pre-formatted document. The extracted format information is stored in format information memory section 5.

The format information application section 6 compares the logical property of the input document with the logical property of the pre-formatted document. Then, for the text data of an input document whose logical property is matched with the logical property of the pre-formatted document, this section 6 sends the text data and character property, which corresponds to matched logical property of pre-formatted document, to the output data generation section 7.

The output data generation section 7 receives corresponding page size and text frame size from the format information memory section 5. Then the section 7 sets page area and text frame area inside the page area in its memory. And each text data, which are sent by the section 6, are located and edited according to the character property inside the text frame area.

The output section 8 is a CRT display apparatus for displaying the formatted document in proportion to the output data from the output data generation section 7.

Figure 3 shows a situation of format application. By using Figure 3, the present invention will be explained in detail as follows. In Figure 3, document formatting apparatus 10 corresponds to all sections (from section 1 to section 8) in Figure 2. First, new document A enters the apparatus 10 through input section 1. As described above, text data (each sentence) of the document A is extracted by line feed code. And the logical property of each text data is determined according to the document structure analysis rule. On the other hand, a pre-formatted document is stored in the document memory section 3. If many types of formatted document are stored in the section 3, the user selects his desired type of formatted document through the input section 1. The selected formatted document M is sent to the format information extract section 4 in the apparatus 10. Figure 4A shows a memorized data structure of a formatted document.

Each symbol's meaning in Figure 4A is as follows.

- 1 [Pi(PXi, PYi)][page number i (X width, Y width)]
- 2 [Ei-j(FXi-j, FYi-j)(XWi-j, YWi-j)].....[text frame number j
5 in page i (X starting point, Y starting point)(X width,
Y width)]
- 10 3 Ei-j text contents in text frame Ei-(j-1)
continues to text contents in next text
frame Ei-j
- 15 4 NULL text contents in the text frame does not
continue to text contents in next text
frame
- 20 5 "[....]" logical property
- 25 6 (A, B, C) (A is character style, B is character
font, C is character position or
30 attribute)
- 7 /...../ text contents
- 35 8 2 line feed code

According to the above-mentioned rules 1-8, the format information extract section 4 extracts layout structure and logical property included in formatted document. Figure 4B shows formatted document extended on display according to the memorized data in Figure 4A. In short, the format information extract section 4 is able to extract layout structure and logical property from the memorized data itself without extending it.

Figure 5 shows a flow chart of the extract process used by the section 4. First, against the received formatted document (Step S1), the section 4 extracts first page size by using above-mentioned extract rule 1 (Step S2). Then, extracted page size (PX1, PY1) with page number 1 are stored in the format information memory section 5 (Step S3). Secondly, against the page 1 extracted at step S2, the section 4 extracts first text frame size by using above-mentioned extract rule 2 (Step S4). And connection information (NULL) is extracted by using extract rules 3 and 4. Then extracted starting point (FX1-1, FY1-1), width (XW1-1, YW1-1) and connection information with text frame number E1-1 are stored in the format information memory section 5 (Step S5). Third, against the text frame E1-1 extracted at step S4, the section 4 finds first text data "DTP SYSTEM" by using extract rules 7 and 8. And the section 4 extracts logical property and character property by using extract rules 5 and 6 (Step S6). Then, extracted logical property (TITLE) and character property (GOTHIC, 18, CENTER) are stored in the format information memory section (Step 7). Next, against the text frame E1-1, the section 4 finds second text data "ISAMU IWAI" by using extract rules 7 and 8. And logical property (AUTHOR) and character property (GOTHIC, 14, CENTER) are extracted. This extract process (Step 6) is repeated for all text data in text frame E1-1 (Step 8). Next, against the page 1, second text frame size (FX1-2, FY1-2), (XW1-2, YW1-2) and connection information (E1-3) are extracted by using extract rule 2,3 and 4. And against the text frame E1-2, logical property and character property for each text data are extracted in the same way. This extract process (Step 4 - Step 6) is repeated for all text

frame in the page 1 (Step 9). Last, against the received formatted document, second page size is extracted by using extract rule 1. (Second page is not disclosed in Figure 4A and 4B.) Against the second page, all text frames are extracted in order. Then, all logical property and character property in each text frame are extracted in order. This extract process (Step 2 - Step 6) is repeated for all pages in the formatted document.

Figure 6A, 6B and 6C show data structure of layout structure and logical property stored in format information memory section 5. In Figure 6A, page size and text frame number corresponding to page number are disclosed. In Figure 6B, text frame size (starting point, width, connection) and logical property corresponding to text frame number are disclosed. At this place, text frames E1-2, E1-3, E2-1 and E2-2 are connected. In short, text data, whose logical property is chapter or section, are located in above-mentioned 4 text frames according to its contents volume. And connection mark (*) corresponding to text frame E2-2 means the connection with next page. In other words, Figure 6A and 6B disclose two pages (P1, P2) only, but according to new input document volume, it happens that third page (P3) is formed and the input document is located in page P1, P2 and P3. In this case, the last text frame E2-2 in page P2 is connected with first text frame in page P3.

In Figure 6C, logical property and its character property (style, font, position or attribute) are disclosed. In Figure 6A and 6B, text frame number links page size with text frame size. In Figure 6B and 6C, logical property links text frame size with character property.

In Figure 3 again, format information memory section 5 in the apparatus 10 stores layout structure and logical property as shown in Figure 6A, 6B and 6C. On the other hand, text data analysis section 2 sends input text data and its logical property to the format information application section 6. Accordingly, the format information application section 6 compares input logical property with the logical property stored in format information memory section 5. As for input text data whose logical property coincides with stored logical property, input text data and character property corresponding to coincident stored logical property (as shown in Figure 6C) are sent to the output data generation section 7 in the apparatus 10. The output data generation section 7 receives corresponding page size and text frame size (as shown in Figure 6A and 6C) from the format information memory section 5. This section 7 forms page area and text frame area in the display memory (this is not illustrated). Then the input text data are located in the text frame area according to its logical property. And the input text data are arranged according to corresponding character property. When a user is displeased with the formatted document from the apparatus 10, he edits it in accordance with his desired format. In Figure 3, it is formatted document Ma which was edited by user. The formatted document Ma is stored instead of M in the formatted document memory section 3 in the apparatus 10. In short, the latest desired format for the user is stored in the section 3. Next, when new document data B is entered, the apparatus 10 applies the formatted document Ma (including the latest format for the user) for new document data B. Therefore, new document data B is arranged according to the latest desired format. However, if the user is displeased with new formatted document for the document data B, he edits it. In Figure 3, it is formatted document Mb. The formatted document Mb is stored instead of Ma in the memory section 3. In this way, the latest document format desired by the user is stored one after another.

Next, by using Figures 7A, 7B and 8, the matching process between logical properties of the input document and logical properties of the stored document will be explained. Figure 7A shows an example of the input document, and Figure 7B shows the logical property of the input document. The format information application section 6 searches for the same logical property in the format information memory section 5 as the logical property of the input document. The Logical property of first text data in input document is "title". Therefore, the section 6 searches "title" against logical properties in the memory section 5 as shown in Figure 6C. In Figure 6C, first logical property "title" is matched and its character property (GOTHIC, 18 CENTER) is retrieved. Then, first text data "DOCUMENT FORMATTING SYSTEM" and character property (GOTHIC, 18 CENTER) are sent to the output data generation section 7. Next, the logical property of the second text data in input document is "author". Therefore, the section 6 searches "author" against logical properties in the memory section 5. In Figure 6C, second logical property "author" is matched and its character property (GOTHIC 14, CENTER) is retrieved. Then, second text data "ISAMU IWAI" and character property (GOTHIC, 14 CENTER) are sent to the output data generation section 7. In this way, each input text data and corresponding character property are sent to the section 7. Figure 8 shows formatted output of the input document data. According to the logical property in Figure 6C, the input document data is arranged by user's favorite format.

Claims

1. A document formatting apparatus, comprising:
 - memory means (3) for storing a formatted document;
 - extracting means (4) for extracting layout structure information and logical property information for the text data in a stored pre-formatted document by use of predetermined extraction rules;
 - 5 analysing means (2) for extracting logical property information for the text data in an input document; and
 - formatting means (6) for determining whether the extracted logical property information from the stored formatted document coincides with the logical property information of the input document and for editing the text data of the input document in accordance with corresponding layout structure information of the stored formatted document, when the logical property information coincides.
- 10 2. A document formatting apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said layout structure information comprises page size, text frame size and character properties.
- 15 3. A document formatting apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said character properties include style, font and position.
4. A document formatting apparatus according to any preceding claim, wherein said formatted document has been manually created and edited.
- 20 5. A document formatting apparatus according to any preceding claim, wherein said text data includes one or more of the title, author's name, place, chapter title, chapter paragraph, section title and section paragraph.
- 25 6. A document formatting apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said extracting means is arranged (a) to extract page size in the formatted document, (b) to extract text frame size in the page and (c) to extract character properties of text data in the text frame, and to then repeat the same sequence for each page.
- 30 7. A document formatting apparatus according to any preceding claim, wherein said formatted document includes page size, text frame size, character property and logical property information at predetermined locations.
- 35 8. A document formatting apparatus according to any of claims 2 to 7, wherein said formatting means (6) places the text data of the input document, whose logical property coincides with the logical property included in the text frame, in the corresponding text frame and edits the text data in accordance with the character properties corresponding to the coincident logical property included in the text frame.
- 40 9. A document formatting apparatus according to any preceding claim, wherein said memory means (3) stores the latest version of the formatted document.
10. A method of formatting a document comprising the steps of:
 - memorising an already formatted document;
 - extracting layout structure information and logical property information for the text data in the stored
 - 45 formatted document by use of predetermined extraction rules;
 - analysing logical property information for the text data in an input document;
 - determining if the extracted logical property information from the stored formatted document matches the logical property information of the input document; and
 - editing the text data of the input document, in accordance with corresponding layout structure
 - 50 information of the stored formatted document when the logical property information matches.
11. A method of formatting a document according to claim 10, wherein said layout structure information is comprised of page size, text frame size and character properties.
- 55 12. A method of formatting a document according to claim 11, wherein said character properties include style, font and position.
13. A method of formatting a document according to any of claims 10 to 12, wherein the said formatted

document which is memorized, is one which was previously created and edited by the user.

14. A method of formatting a document according to any of claims 10 to 13, herein said text data includes one or more of the title, author's name, place, chapter title, chapter paragraph, section title and section paragraph.
15. A method of formatting a document according to any of claims 11 to 14, wherein the extracting step comprises the steps of:
 - (a) extracting the page size in the formatted document;
 - (b) extracting the text frame size in the page;
 - (c) extracting the character properties of text data in the text frame; and repeating the above extracting steps in sequence for each page.
16. A method of formatting a document according to any of claims 11 to 15, wherein at the memorising step, said formatted document includes page size, text frame size, character properties and logical property information at predetermined locations.
17. A method of formatting a document according to any of claims 11 to 16 wherein the editing step comprises the steps of:
 - placing the text data of the input document, whose logical property coincides with the logical property included in the text frame, in the corresponding text frame; and
 - editing the text data in accordance with the character property corresponding to the coincident logical property included in the text frame.
18. A method of formatting a document according to any of claims 10 to 17, wherein at the memorising step, said formatted document is the latest version as edited by the user.

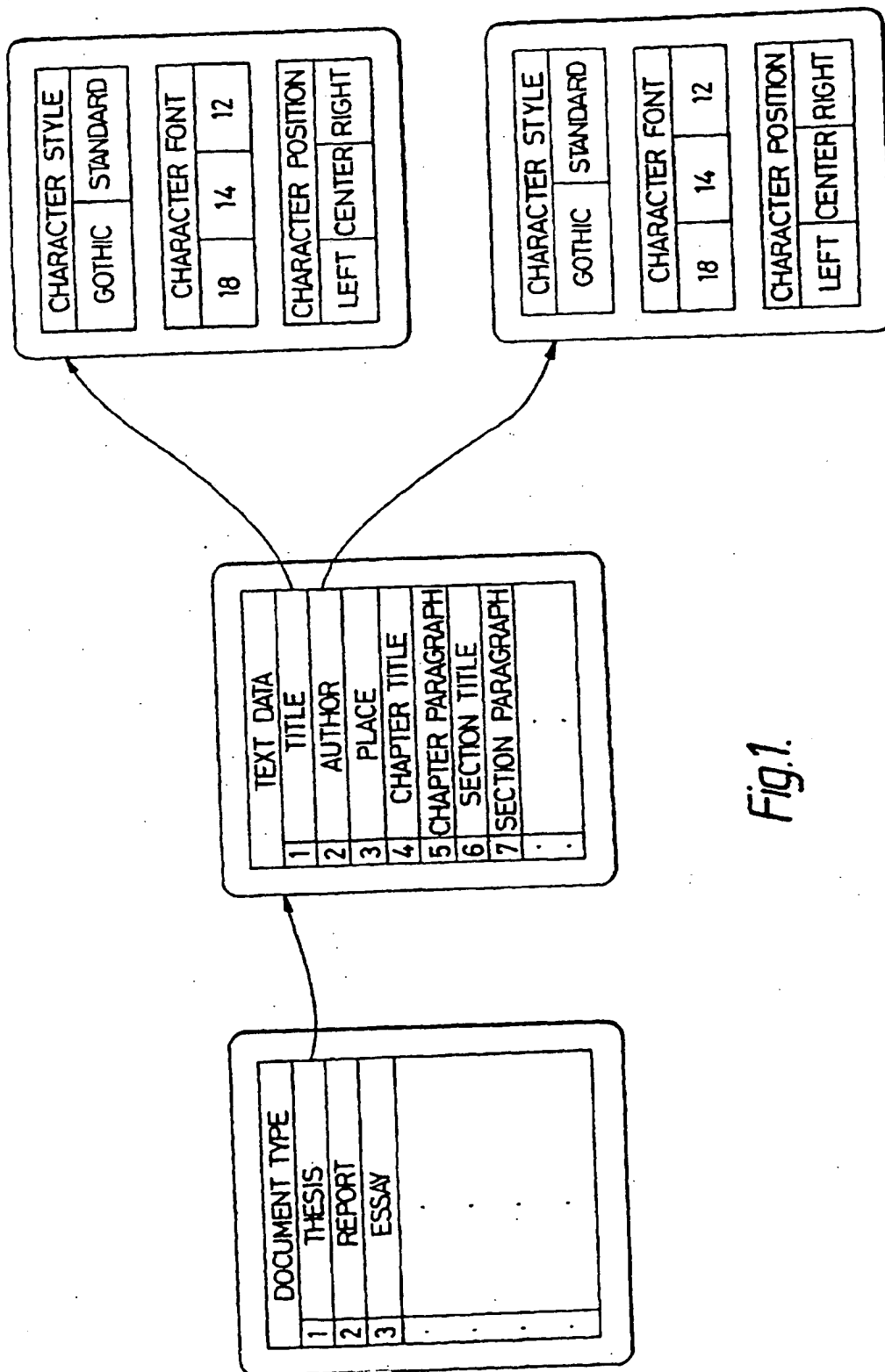


Fig.1.

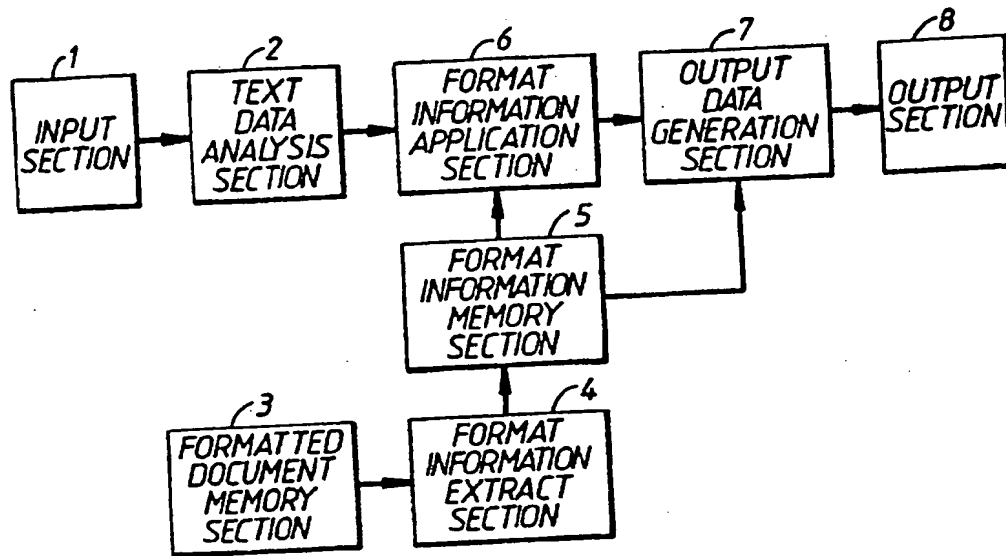


Fig. 2.

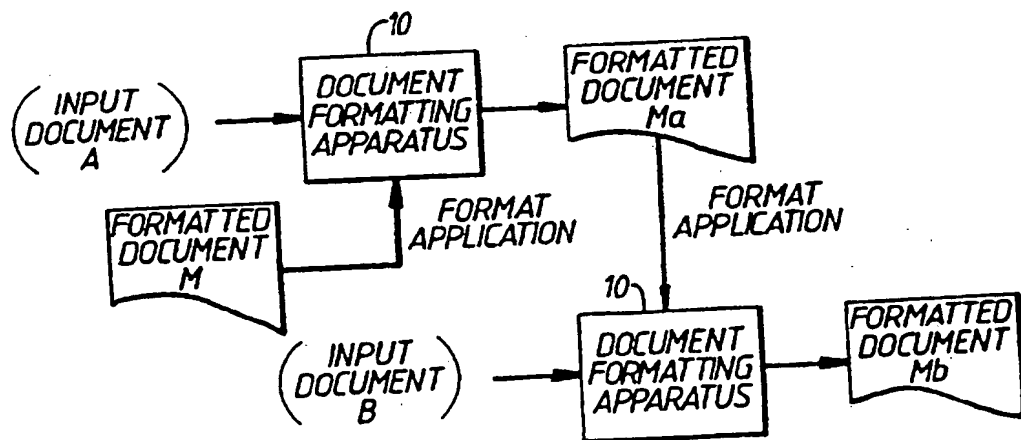


Fig. 3.

$[P_1 (PX_1, PY_1)]$	$[E_{1-1} (FX_{1-1}, FY_{1-1}) (XW_{1-1} YW_{1-1})]$	<u>NULL</u> TITLE
(GOTHIC, 18, CENTER) / DTP SYSTEM /	Ⓢ	AUTHOR (GOTHIC,
14, CENTER) / ISAMU IWAI /	Ⓢ	PLACE (GOTHIC 14,
CENTER) / TOSHIBA CORPORATION /	Ⓢ	$[E_{1-2} (FX_{1-2}, FY_{1-2})$
$(XW_{1-2}, YW_{1-2})]$	$[E_{1-3}]$	CHAPTER TITLE (STANDARD, 14, UNDERLINE)
/ 1 INTRODUCTION /	Ⓢ	CHAPTER PARAGRAPH (STANDARD, 12,
1 SPACE) /		RECENTLY, DTP SYSTEM HAS DEVELOPED

Fig.4A.

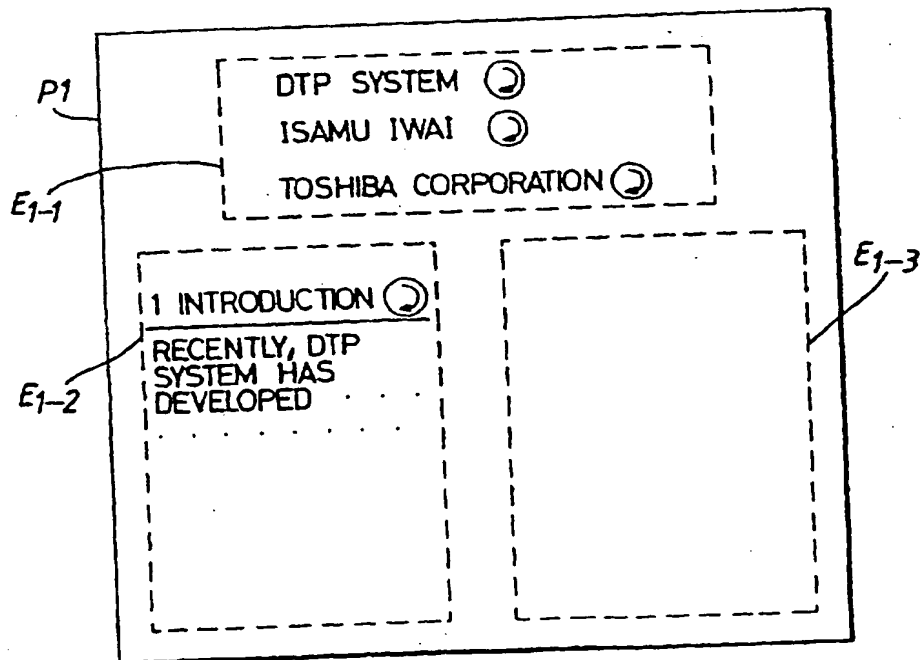


Fig.4B.

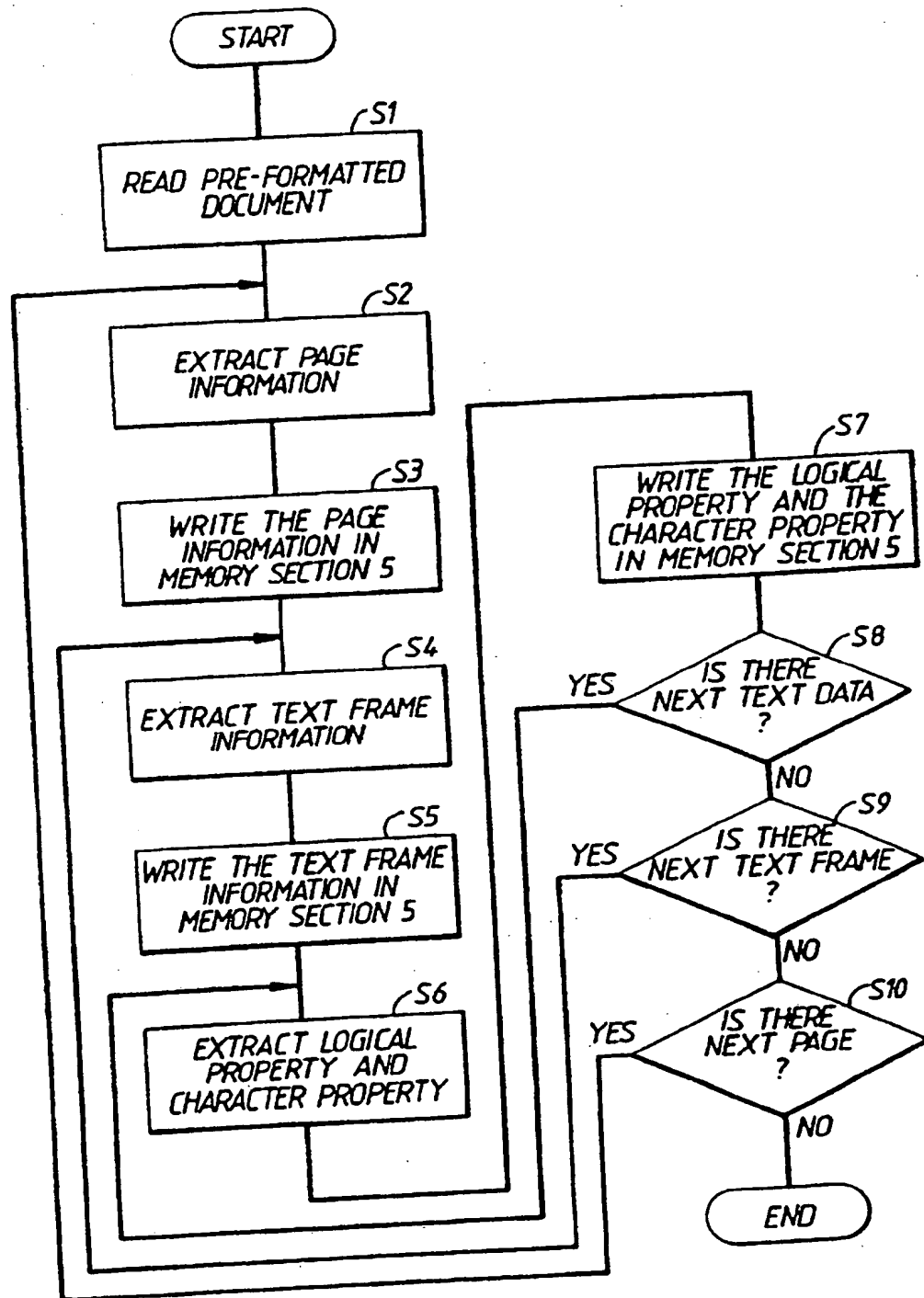


Fig. 5.

PAGE NUMBER	PAGE SIZE	TEXT FRAME NUMBER
P1	PX ₁ , PY ₂	E ₁₋₁ , E ₁₋₂ , E ₁₋₃
P2	PX ₂ , PY ₂	E ₂₋₁ , E ₂₋₂

Fig.6A.

TEXT FRAME NUMBER	STARTING POINT	WIDTH	CONNECTION	LOGICAL PROPERTY
E ₁₋₁	FX ₁₋₁ , FY ₁₋₁	XW ₁₋₁ , YW ₁₋₁	NULL	TITLE, AUTHOR, PLACE
E ₁₋₂	FX ₁₋₂ , FY ₁₋₂	XW ₁₋₂ , YW ₁₋₂	1-3	CHAPTER TITLE, CHAPTER PARAGRAPH
E ₁₋₃	FX ₁₋₃ , FY ₁₋₃	XW ₁₋₃ , YW ₁₋₃	2-1	"
E ₂₋₁	FX ₂₋₁ , FY ₂₋₁	XW ₂₋₁ , YW ₂₋₁	2-2	SECTION TITLE, SECTION PARAGRAPH
E ₂₋₂	FX ₂₋₂ , FY ₂₋₂	XW ₂₋₂ , YW ₂₋₂	*	"

Fig.6B.

LOGICAL PROPERTY	CHARACTER PROPERTY
TITLE	GOTHIC, 18 , CENTER
AUTHOR	GOTHIC, 14 , CENTER
PLACE	GOTHIC, 14 , CENTER
CHAPTER TITLE	STANDARD, 14, UNDERLINE

Fig.6C.

DOCUMENT FORMATTING SYSTEM Ⓞ

ISAMU IWAI Ⓞ

TOSHIBA CORPORATION Ⓞ

1. AT THE BEGINNING Ⓞ

NOWDAYS, DOCUMENT FORMATTING SYSTEM

IS

Fig.7A.

NUMBER	INPUT TEXT DATA	LOGICAL PROPERTY
1	DOCUMENT FORMATTING SYSTEM	TITLE
2	ISAMU IWAI	AUTHOR
3	TOSHIBA CORPORATION	PLACE
4	1. AT THE BEGINNING	CHAPTER TITLE
5	NOWDAYS, DOCUMENT FORMATTING SYSTEM IS	CHAPTER PARAGRAPH

Fig.7B.

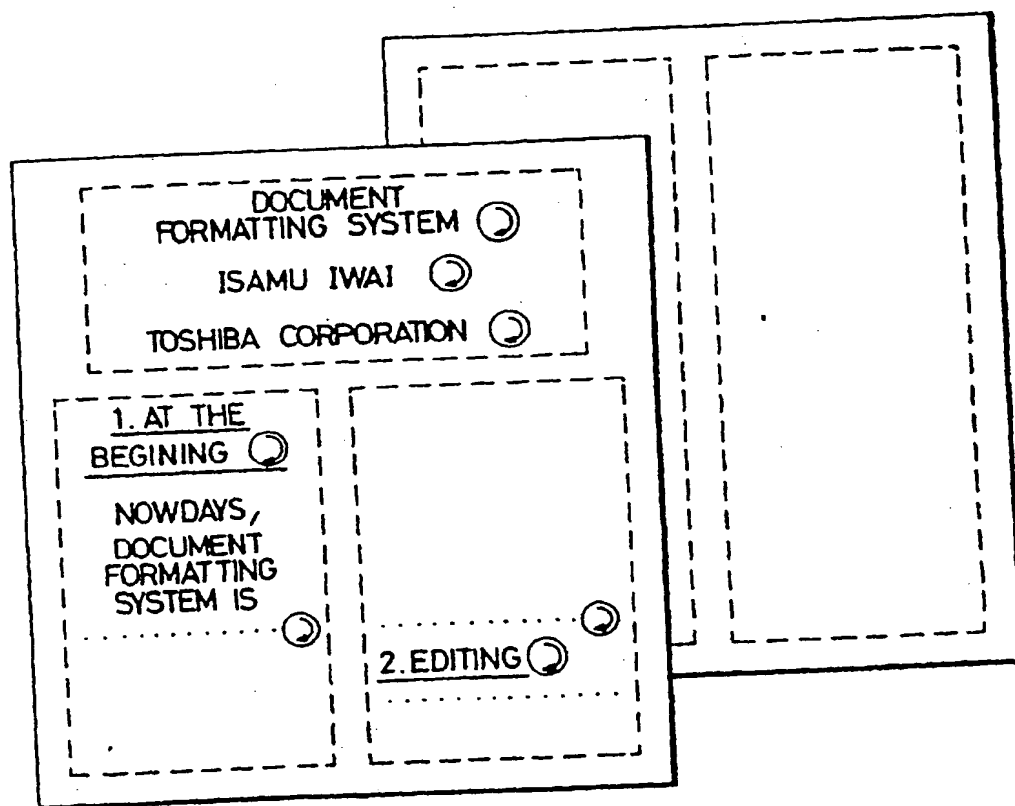


Fig.8.

(19)



Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets



(11) Publication number:

0 433 073 A3

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(21) Application number: 90313612.5

(51) Int. Cl.⁵: G06F 15/20

(22) Date of filing: 13.12.90

(30) Priority: 14.12.89 JP 322642/89

(43) Date of publication of application:
19.06.91 Bulletin 91/25(94) Designated Contracting States:
DE FR GB NL(88) Date of deferred publication of the search report:
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(54) Document formatting apparatus.

(57) A document formatting apparatus automatically arrange input document data so as to match a pre-formatted document. Firstly, layout structure including character properties and logical properties of each text data item are extracted from a pre-formatted document. Secondly, logical properties of each text data item are extracted from an input document. Thirdly each of the logical properties of the input document is compared with corresponding logical properties of the pre-formatted document. When the logical properties of input text data are matched with logical properties of the pre-formatted document, corresponding character properties of the pre-formatted document are applied to the input text data. Therefore, each text data item of the input document is automatically arranged in accordance with the preset layout structure and corresponding character properties.

EP 0 433 073 A3



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 90 31 3612

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.5)
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	
A	COMMUNICATIONS OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR COMPUTING MACHINERY vol. 28, no. 9, September 1985, NEW YORK US pages 942 - 960 J. GUTKNECHT 'Concepts of the Text Editor Lara' * page 949, left column, line 45 - page 949, right column, line 18 *	1-18	G06F15/20
A	COMPUTER vol. 21, no. 1, January 1988, LONG BEACH US pages 32 - 43 J. JOHNSON & R. J. BEACH 'Styles in Document Editing Systems' * page 42, middle column, line 1 - line 30 *	1-3, 5, 8, 10-12, 14, 17	
A	EP-A-0 324 445 (KABUSHIKI KAISHA TOSHIBA) 19 July 1989 * the whole document *	1-3, 5, 8, 10-12, 14, 17	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5) G06F
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 11 FEBRUARY 1993	Examiner BURNE S.R.
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document I : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons A : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			